

The Experience of Hospitalization



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Hospitals play an important role in the Health care services.

India's Health policy has evolved over a long period of time. We had heritage of an ancient civilization with Ayurveda and Siddha /Unani and similar philosophies.

People receive most of their medical care as outpatients or in a clinic. Occasionally, however a person needs to be hospitalized either for treatment or diagnoses that for one reason or another cannot be performed on an outpatient basis.

The experience of hospitalization goes well beyond simply the interactions that people have with practitioners. Being hospitalized means dealing with a large-scale institution that is strange to most people and can be overwhelming.

Hospitals have their own rules and procedures often developed primarily for staff convenience and efficiency that many times seem to be at cross purposes with patient needs. For this reason hospitals are generally considered aversive places and hospitalization is seen as a very negative experience.

Understanding the experience of being hospitalized requires an examination of hospitals as institutions. The modern hospital as we know it is a relatively recent invention. When hospitals were first developed during the middle ages they were places that catered to the ill poor. The wealthy were generally cared for at home in their role as charitable institutions hospitals

also took in traveled orphans and the poor who had nowhere else to go since little effective medical care was available hospital gained the well-deserved reputation as places of last resort, where people went to die. Anyone who could afford it steered clear of



hospitals. Even into the 1920's many hospitals were still thought of as charitable institutions for those who had no other alternative only in the last few decades have hospitals been used routinely by people from all levels of society.

Modern hospitals are generally large complex institutions charged with performing a wide variety of health related activities including preventing illness curing diseases, repairing injury, providing health education, conducting research and training medical personal. Accomplishing these tasks requires a diverse and highly trained staff as well as a complex social hierarchy. At the top of this hierarchy is the board of trustees which is generally concerned with overall policy making and fundraising directly below the board trustees are the administrations and medical

staff. The hospital administration deals with the practical everyday matters of running the hospital such as ordering supplies maintaining the physical plant keeping patient accounts and purchasing equipment. The dramatic growth in health care costs in the recent years and increased competition for patients have put hospital administrators under increasing pressure to keep costs down while providing facilities for state of the art medical care.

The medical staff which has a completely separate line of authority is responsible for medical treatment. Curiously physicians are often not employees of the hospital rather they are usually private practitioners or members of group practices or health plans who are granted the right to treat their patients at that hospital.

Therefore their services are billed separately from those of the hospital and physicians generally act independently of the hospital administration. Below physicians is the nursing staff unlike physicians nurses are paid hospital employees who are paid hospital employees why are charged with the management of hospital wards and the day to day care of patients this arrangements often puts nurses in difficult situations. Since they are expected to follow the directives of both the administration that employs them and the physicians who outrank them on the medical staff.

In addition to physicians and nurses the hospital staff includes allied health professional such as social workers, directions and physical therapists. These professionals provide important services in the hospital setting but are often defined by physicians as ancillary to what they consider the hospitals primarily medical purpose lowest in rank are the orderlies and technicians who perform less skilled patient care duties but are nonetheless critical to the hospital's functioning.

Institutionalization the process of placing a person in an institution for corrective or therapeutic purposes.

The individuals adaptation to the patterns of behaviour characteristic of an institution.

Hospital administrators can play crucial role in implementing an effective action plan with people's participating thus ensuring better health for all the people.

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